



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 S. Townsend Avenue
Montrose, Colorado 81401
www.blm.gov



IN REPLY REFER TO:
8340(CO-S05)

May 11, 2009

Dear Dry Creek Planning Participant:

The BLM Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) has completed the Dry Creek Travel Management Plan Environmental Assessment (DCTMP-EA). This document reports analysis of impacts of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) area, road, and trail designations on public lands in Montrose and Delta Counties, Colorado.

This is the BLM's next step in the decision making process for revising travel management in this particular portion of the BLM's Uncompahgre Field Office Resource Management Area. In this step the UFO is proposing to amend the Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP). The proposed RMP amendment will:

- Change existing OHV designations on Public Lands categorized as "Open" and "Limited" to "Limited to designated routes" yearlong or with seasonal restrictions.

An EA was prepared by the UFO that addressed limiting all motorized use (including snowmobiles) and mechanical devices not powered by a motor to designated routes. The EA was distributed for a 30-day comment period that ended January 14, 2009. Comments on the Draft RMP amendment received from the public were considered and incorporated as appropriate into the proposed plan. Public comments resulted in the addition of clarifying text, but did not significantly change proposed land use plan decisions. The EA can be seen and downloaded at <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo.html>. Paper and CD copies of the EA are available upon request. Please contact the Uncompahgre Field Office, 2505 South Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO, phone (970)240-5300, or by email at cotmpufo@blm.gov.

A 30-day period in which to protest the BLM proposed plan amendments will end on June 12, 2009. There is no provision for a protest time extension. Following the 30-day protest period, there will be a 30-day appeal period where the public can appeal route by route decisions.

Protest Procedures

The BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2) state that "any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the approval or amendment of a resource management plan" may protest the BLM's proposed amendments to the RMP. A protest may raise only those issues which were submitted for the record during the planning process. A person who meets the conditions and files a protest must file the protest by June 12, 2009. Copies of the EA are available for public inspection at the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, 2505 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO; and the Montrose and Delta Public Libraries. Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the

BLM regarding the proposed amendment to the RMP may be found at 43 CFR 1610.5-2. Interested persons may also review the EA on the Internet at <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo.html>. All protests must be in writing and mailed to the following addresses:

If sent by regular mail to:

Director (210)
Attention: Brenda Hudgens-Williams
P.O. Box 66538
Washington, D.C. 20035
cc: BLM-Dry Creek Plan/EA Attn: Julie Jackson, Uncompahgre Field Office, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401.

For overnight mailing (must be Federal Express) send to:

Director (210)
Attention: Brenda Hudgens-Williams
1620 L Street, N.W. Suite 1075
Washington, D.C. 20036

For complete protest procedures, please contact the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, 2505 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO: phone (970)240-5300 or email at cotmpufo@blm.gov. E-mail and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, the BLM will consider the e-mail or faxed protest as an advanced copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide the BLM with such advance notification, please direct protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at:

Fax protests to: (202) 452-5112, and

E-mail protests to: Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov.

Please also courtesy copy (cc:) advance notification of protest to Julie Jackson, Recreation Planner (e-mail: Julie_Jackson@blm.gov) and Bruce Krickbaum, Environmental Coordinator (e-mail: Bruce_Krickbaum@blm.gov).

All protests, including the follow-up letter (if e-mailing or faxing) must be in writing and mailed to the appropriate address provided above. Before including your phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your protest, you should be aware that your entire protest – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask the BLM to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, the BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

Thank you for your time and participation throughout this project. We look forward to implementing this plan.

Sincerely,
Barbara L. Sharrow
Field Office Manager